Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 ISO-00 EB-06 COME-00 STR-04 AID-05

SWF-01 IO-10 CIAE-00 FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 RSC-01

TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-24 SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-03 SIL-01

OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 USIA-15 PC-05 DRC-01 /115 W 109360

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FM AMEMBASSY BRASILIA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6003

UNCLAS BRASILIA 7850

PASS USDA

E.O.11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, EPAP, BR

SUBJECT: BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT LAUNCHES AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

AND PRODUCTIVITY DRIVE

SUMMARY: BRAZILIAN PRESIDENT LAUNCHED NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON INCREASING PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY, MAINLY AIMED AT AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRODUCTION IN THEINTEREST OF BRAZILIAN FARMERS, CONSUMERS AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS.

- 2. ON OCTOBER 10 PRSIDENT GEISEL LAUNCHED IN THE PRSENCE OF MANY OFFICIALS -- INCLUDING HIS MINAG PAULINELLI AND ALL STATE MINAGS -- ASSEMBLED IN CURITIBA, A NATIONAL CAMPAIGN ON INCREASED PRODUCTION AND PRODUCTIVITY.
- 2. GEISEL STRESSED THE PRIORITY GIVEN BY HIS ADMINISTRATION TO AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AS ONE OF THE MAINSTAYS OF THE BRAZILIAN ECONOMY.
- 3. HE WILL INCREASE THE BUDGET OF HIS MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE BY 175 PERCENT OR BY 3.6 BILLION CURZEIROS (500 MILLION DOLLARS) TO STRENGHTEN AGRUCULTURAL ECONOMY AND IMPROVE FARM INCOME UNCLASSIFIED

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- 4. PRESDIENT EXPRESSED: A) CONCERN ABOUT WORLD CRISIS IN ENERGY AND FOOD SUPPLY AS WELL AS THE SERIOUS INTENATIONAL MONETARY AND INFLATION PROBLEMS. B) THEIMPORTANCE FOR BRAZIL TO DEVELOP INTO AMAJOR SUPPLIER OF AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PRODUCTS: IS IN THE INTEREST OF ITS FARMERS, CONSUMERS AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS, BUT ALSO IN THEINTEREST OF CONSUMERS AROUND THE WORLD. A TARGET HAS BEEN SET FOR AN INCREASE OF SEVEN PERCENT PER YEAR IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. TO REALIZE SUCH GROWTH A CLOSER COORDINATION AND COOPERATION BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE ENTERPRISE, FARMERS, AGRIBUSINESS, TRANSPORTATION AND MARKETING WILL BE NEEDED. GEISEL CONSENTED THAT THE AGRICULTURAL BUREAUCRACY COULD BENEFIT FROM RESTRUCTURING. MORE ATTENTION SHOULD BE GIVEN TO FARM CREDIT, RESEARCH AND EXTENSIN.
- 5. THE PRESIDENT PROPOSED INCREASE OF 50 PERCENT IN MINIMUM PRICES TO PROTECT FARMERS FROM EVER INCREASING COSTS FOR INPUTS, MAINLY THOSE OF FERTILIZERS. GOB WILL STRIVE FOR GREATER INDEPENDENCE FROM FERTILIZER IMPORT.
- 6. A BETTER MARKETING SYSTEM SHOULD HELP GIVING THE FARMER A BETTER SHARE OF TH RETAIL PRICE AND MAKE BRAZIL MORE COMPETITIVE IN WORLD MARKETS.
- 7. CREDIT RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED EARLIER THIS YEAR HAVE BEEN REDUCED SO THAT FARMERS CAN AGAIN FULLY BENEFIT FROM AMPLE CREDIT, BOTH GOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE.
- 8. GOB WILL CONTINUE TO PROTECT INTEREST F CONSUMERS AND FIGHT INFLATINARY FORCES RESPONSIBLE FOR INCREASING PRICE OF FOOD BACKET.
- 9. A HEALTHIER AGRICULTURE WOULD ALSO MITIGATE MOVEMENT OF RURAL POPULATION TO URBAN AREAS.
- 10. GEOSEL FINALLY CALLED ON FARMERS AND OTHERS INVOLVED IN AGRIBUSINESS, MARKETING AND TRANSPORTATION TOLEND THEIR FULL SUPPORT TO ALL OUT EFFORTS TO BE MADE BY PRESENT GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF BOTH PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS.
 CRIMMINS

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